

Good morning!

I'm writing to ask you to support SB 522 Bear Hunting in CT and HB 5499 Expanded Sunday Hunting and to NOT SUPPORT SB 284 Cecils Law.

As an avid sportsman, father, and teacher I've limited time to hunt during the week and would greatly appreciate having the increased opportunity to hunt on Sundays on both public and private lands throughout Connecticut. I pay quite a sum for my licenses and utilize every portion of the animals I harvest to augment my family's table fare. The presence of fish and game I've harvested is an important portion of our diet and another day to hunt might make it a bit easier to keep my freezer (and kid's stomachs) full.

Although I don't hunt bears, I do recognize as a biologist that carefully managed hunting can be utilized as a highly effective management tool for wildlife populations once the natural food chain has been disrupted. The increased income to the state via hunting licenses and bears tags would go a long way in further funding increase protection of wildlife and public land.

As for 'Cecils Law' we have no absolutely no business interfering in the Conservation and Anti poaching efforts of another nation. Cecils Law will make criminals of people who have inherited or bought legal African trophy mounts. This bill does absolutely nothing to prevent poaching, if only prevents legally obtained African game mounts from being back for hunting trips and criminalizes anyone who currently owns one. Further, if passed, it would have a deep financial impact on our resident taxidermists. Who, if this bill passes, would have to move out of Connecticut to continue their trade...taking along with them their skills and taxes...while doing nothing to decrease the number of illegally taken animals.

Please do consider your votes carefully and truly represent the voices of your constituents.

With my highest regards,

Mike Rowinsky

Middlebury, CT